

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SIL-01

LAB-06 AID-20 DRC-01 /175 W  
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R 111301Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1654

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: NATAL GARMENT WORKERS TO WITHDRAW FROM TUCSA

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 133; (B) DURBAN 034; (C) DURBAN A-1

1. SUMMARY: TUCSA'S REFUSAL ACTIVELY PROTEST BANNINGS FOUR WHITE UNION ORGANIZERS OF AFRICAN UNIONS HAS PRECIPITATED HARRIET BOLTON'S DECISION WITHDRAW HER GARMENT WORKERS' UNION FROM TUCSA RAISING LIKELIHOOD OF SERIOUS TUCSA SPLIT. LAST STRAW WAS TUCSA REFUSAL PARTICIPATE MASS RALLY DURBAN FEB. 9 PROTEST BANNINGS. TUCSA SO FAR HAS MADE NO STATEMENT WHATSOEVER CONCERNING THE BANNINGS ALTHOUGH TWO OF THE FOUR BANNED WERE ON PAYROLL OF REGISTERED UNIONS AFFILIATED TO TUCSA. END SUMMARY.

2. LONG SIMMERING FEUD BETWEEN MRS. HARRIET BOLTON SECRETARY

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NATAL GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, AND TUCSA HEAD OFFICEIN

JOHANNESBURG (REF A) HAS BROKEN INTO THE OPEN AND HAS RESULTED IN APPARENT DECISION BY GARMENT WORKERS TO LEAVE TUCSA. FINAL STRAW WAS TUCSA REFUSAL BE REPRESENTED AT MASS MEETING IN DURBAN FEB 9 PROTESTING SAG'S BANNING FOUR TRADE UNIONISTS (REF B). ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS GARMENT WORKERS' UNION GAVE TUCSA ULTIMATUM PREVIOUS WEEK THAT UNLESS TUCSA PARTICIPATED PROTEST RALLY UNION WOULD GIVE THREE MONTHS NOTICE REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL FROM TUCSA AND THEREBY PRECIPITATE SERIOUS TUCSA SPLIT. OTHER NATAL UNIONS, INCLUDING FURNITURE WORKERS, TEXTILE WORKERS AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIAL WORKERS' UNION ALSO NOW CONSIDERING TUCSA WITHDRAWAL.

3. MASS RALLY, HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP RENOWNED AUTHOR ALAN PATON ATTRACTED SOME 2000 PROTESTORS, MOSTLY AFRICAN WORKERS, AS WELL AS LARGE AND VERY VISIBLE CONTINGENT SECURITY POLICE. SPEAKERS INCLUDED MRS. BOLTON, KWAZULU COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BARNEY DLADLA, NATAL LABOR PARTY LEADER NORMAN MIDDLETON AND NUSAS PRESIDENT CHARLES NUPEN. MESSAGES OF SUPPORT WERE READ FROM SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL UNIONS, INCLUDING BRITISH TUC, INT'L METAL WORKERS FEDERATION, INTERNATIONAL GARMENT, TEXTILE AND LEATHERWORKERS UNION AND FROM NUMEROUS COMMUNITY LEADERS INCLUDING PROGRESSIVE MP HELEN SUZMAN, COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON, NATAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER HARRY PITMAN, NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS SECRETARY P. RAMESAR AND INDIAN SOCIOLOGIST FATIMA MEER. TUCSA NON-PARTICIPATION WAS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY NOTED AND HEAVILY CRITICIZED.

4. KEY SPEAKER BARNEY DLADLA URGED AFRICAN WORKERS PRESENT NOT TO BE DETERGED OR INTIMIDATED BY BANNINGS BUT TO BE WILLING, IF NECESSARY, TO FACE BANNINGS, JAIL OR EVEN ROBBER ISLAND IN THEIR UNENDING BID OBTAIN RECOGNIZED AFRICAN UNIONS. WITH EVEN CLEARER BRAVADO HARRIET BOLTON LIKENED HER TASK PRESENT AND FUTURE TO THAT OF BANNED FOUR AND PLEDGED CONTINUE HER ACTIVE SUPPORT AFRICAN UNIONIZATION. SHOUTING "SHAME" AT EACH REFERENCE TO TUCSA'S NON-PARTICIPATION, CROWD ALSO INDICATED STRONG APPROVAL FOR RESOLUTION CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT RELEASE BANNED FOUR AND RECOGNIZE AFRICAN UNIONS.

5. COMMENT: TUCSA SPLIT HAD BEEN EXPECTED (REF C) BUT THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY TUCSA'S FAILURE ATTEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT PROTEST MEETING WILL BE VIEWED AS UNFORGIVEABLE BY THOSE UNIONS, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WHO SUPPORT AFRICAN UNIONIZATION. BY BREAKING LOOSE FROM TUCSA TIES HOPES ATTRACT DIRECT FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR HER INDEPENDENT DRIVE FOR FORMATION AFRICAN UNIONS. BUT BY SEVERING HER TUCSA TIES SHE WILL ALSO BE MAKING HERSELF MORE VULNERABLE TO BANNING SIMILAR TO THAT HANDED OUT TO HER FOUR ASSISTANTS.

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## Message Attributes

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